

Evaluating Primary Sources: The **APPARTS** Method

Primary sources are the heart of the historical profession. They come in all shapes and sizes. Some are written, some are visual, some are recorded, taped, or filmed. These sources will form the foundation of your own interpretations of the past (and present) and allow you to become an active participant in what James Loewen refers to as “a furious debate” over the meaning of history.

A uthor	Who created the source? What was his/her perspective?
P lace & Time	Where and when was the source produced/created?
P rior Knowledge	What was happening locally, nationally and globally when the source was created/produced?
A udience	For whom was the source created? Be as specific as possible Is this source intended only for the author who created it or for other people?
R eason	Why was the source produced at the time it was produced? What was the author's purpose? Does the source persuade, explain, inform?
T he Main Idea	What is the main idea of the source? What is the author's main point? What supporting points does he/she make to support this main idea?
S ignificance	Why is this source significant? How reliable is this source? How do you know? How useful or significant is the source in answering your historical question? <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ What can you learn from this source?○ What can't you learn?

This assignment is based on an assignment developed by the College Board to aid students in their preparation for A.P. history exams. Please see *A.P. Vertical Teams Guide for Social Studies* (College